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# The Hawaiian Gazette Co.,

## THE LATTERS.

### Hawaiian Discontent.

Elements of Discontent.—Attitude of the Races.—A British Protectorate.—Treasury Statements.

HONOLULU, MARCH 2.

Each breath of the trade wind which blows across these beautiful islands is heavily charged with gossip and rumor. To listen on the street corner, or take note where men do congregate, were moved by such evidence, is to be convinced that the revolution is yet to come. The few natives who made the recent riot were only so many school-boys who shook the tree before the fruit was ripe. The great nebulous mass of the discontented still revolves on its own centre increasing in volume and acquiring solidity as it is segregated from the present government of Hawaii. The head that wore the crown rests on its pillow far easier than an ever lie, save in one construction of that word, the power which snatched away the sceptre of royalty. More and more, the monarchy is shown to Liliuokalani. She is now allowed to walk through the grounds of that which was once Iolani Palace, providing her promenades are not taken before four in the afternoon and are limited by a radius terminating at one hundred feet from the periphery of the fence. Her friends believe that far more liberty, nothing less than pardon or permission to return to her private residence has been offered to her, but she has not only refused, but has dared her captors to send her to share the imprisonment or exile of her adherents. Adding that she would willingly go into durance vile, or accept general amnesty, just which might be the universal fate. It is not the queen as a person (and thus similar to the presence of the first Napoleon in Europe), which constitutes the menace to the peace of Hawaii. The case is this, for seventy years royalty has been the basis of union to all nations and all parties in these islands. Less than ten years ago, Chief Justice Judd, son of the missionary of that name, in as strong words as could be used, boasted of the consummate success of its conservation; yet, this was during the Kalakaua dynasty, the same which is now deposed and maligned. It is the loss of a point of union which precipitates anarchy.

To briefly state the position of each one of the elements governed by the nineteen men in power, those of the native race have a feudal or tribal pride in the consciousness of possessing a chief of their own color. Is this not true with other aboriginal peoples? The Arab or sheik or Indian sachem may be a savage but could you supplant his authority with that of a philanthropist? The Chinese owe their Hawaiian prosperity to the monarchy; for the two years just passed, the existing government has been forced to curb this prosperity in order to placate a large middle class of whose support their oligarchy had dire need.

Ignorance exaggerates its own importance, so that now large numbers of men of this class, to each of whom the sugar barons handed a musket during the late disturbance clamor for their share of the victor's spoils. Each man assumes that Mr. Dole would not be president today, had it not been for his individual aid. The Japanese are sensitive to the least offence, and care not how soon a national quarrel is provoked. The better class of Europeans are disheartened at the scarcity of money and the insecurity of investments, and whatever may be their politics, these make no secret of their hope for the permanent protection of some one of the great powers.

The vexed question of annexation to the American Union presents equal perplexities; whether the powers that be still wish for this their first choice, is now a secret known solely in their conclaves. It has been discovered that only the President

and his cabinet can make a treaty to this end, that not only the people but even the senate; should it ever convene, have absolutely no voice in the matter. The new constitution leaving it entirely with the five individuals who have been the supreme power since the fall of the monarchy. This power is exactly that against which the American League is opposed, nor do the speaker accredited by the latter in the least disguise their intention to rid the country of what they style, "missionary rule." No visitor would dare to use such language in public as was spoken a few days since at a mass meeting held under the auspices of this organization. There were two noted half whites engaged as speakers; both of whom expressed the most open hatred to the present rulers, described the attempts that the nation had made to throw them off, and recommended annexation as a last and necessary resort. Through circulars distributed by the city police, the authorities warned the natives to stay away from the meeting, and from one motive or the other, fear or loyalty, this command was quite generally obeyed.

It may be asked just here if the present government has absolutely no supporters, those on whose patriotism, not on whose loyalty it can rely. It has, but they are few in number. They are the men who in lack of a better term are included in what is called the missionary party, because by origin, ecclesiastical or mercantile affiliations they are allied with the original missions. It is simply because of their loyalty and wealth that the present government has been sustained. It is said that an exhaustive article on the finances of Hawaii is in course of preparation by one of them, and a remark was made in my hearing on the author's fitness for his subject by an expert accountant who said, "If there is one man who can make figures lie, it is he."

Insanity is said to have resulted in two instances where men have presumed to unravel government accounts, and from personal experience, one may readily believe it. By the latest statement the gross debt is \$3,635,475.36, having increased in one week \$6,850. Deducting from the above sum \$711,200.27, this amount being the sum due under the postal savings bank act, the national debt has increased from the 31st day of March, 1892, to the present date \$910,275.09. Under the last statement made by the monarchy the postal savings bank was in a most flourishing condition; its deposits were \$949,049.16, this large sum being divided amongst depositors of every race and aim at entirely of moderate means. From lack of confidence or kindred causes the demands on the government were enormous, and amounted to a little short of \$400,000 in one biennial period. How then does it happen that the diminution today (while the drain still goes on) is insignificant? By official statement at this time there is but \$153,793.99 in cash in its vaults of which \$47,331.00 is awaiting maturity of notice of withdrawal. Because the government has borrowed of its supporters large funds for which it has given notes signed by the postmaster general, so that now there is no way of distinguishing between creditors and bond holders. What is true here is true in other departments of fiscal economy. For example, there was due to the firm of Spreckels & Co. the sum of \$95,000 for which his bank made personal demand; it was paid, but the treasury did not pay it; it secured its friends, and these still hold that identical claim. Such transfers seem to be the rule rather than the exception, and it would appear that without foreign relief they must continue. For there will be no income of moment received until the Decem-ber taxes are paid. The official expenses, including interest, are about \$150,000 a month. The available cash excluding special funds and silver certificates is \$175,361.43, having decreased sixty-six thousand dollars the

past week. There is a large bill payable account which appears nowhere in any public statement. The charge that silver is sometimes borrowed from the deposits is doubtless false. But accounts are probably paid by bonds, there being large numbers of these of small denomination. The inquiry naturally arises, if the government is in good credit, and can readily dispose of its bonds at par, why does it not do so, and fill its treasury? The mystery of Hawaiian government bonds is yet an enigma; these appear and disappear in the official papers in a manner unexplainable by the present writer. About one million of the bonded debt was placed ten years ago in London, and as Great Britain is probably a creditor to a somewhat larger amount this day, it was thought that this brief review of Hawaiian finances might aid the speculative in predicting the attitude of that power in case of further complications at Honolulu.

The sum of fifty thousand dollars was recently raised by a transaction which might excite criticism in view of the missionary antecedents of the men who did it, and their severity on the British system of opium license, when the latter was proposed by the queen. All the opium confiscated was offered for sale, and Chinese merchants of Honolulu invited to bid. As no bid of sufficient amount was received, it was exported by the government and sold at British Columbia, realizing the above sum. Higher education in the islands has hitherto been in denominational hands, Catholic, Protestant and Anglican; some twenty thousand dollars for the coming biennial period may be saved by the clause in the constitution which forbids such aid in future.

One of the schemes on foot to pledge the government to annexation and also to plunder the American people is this:—there is a railroad now built to Pearl Harbor; it is the only one in Hawaii; it is of about fifteen miles in length with possible additions of a few miles from time to time as it is to be extended around the island of Oahu back to the point of departure; the latest move is to get the Hawaiian government to guarantee two million of its bonds, on the representation that this nation will never have to pay them, that by union with us, these obligations will go into the national debt of the United States, and thus this advantage will be gained at the expense of the American people.

As all the admirers of the ideal American commonwealth have spoken in praise of the town meeting system, it might have been well for the fathers of the Hawaiian Republic to have made some provision for local government of the people by the people. This would have been, however, to put matters out of the control of the two per cent of the population known as Americans, therefore not the least approximation to such privilege a contemplated in the constitution or by statute law. Any town in the group of islands where a sidewalk requires mending can only get this done by the personal order of the minister of the interior; this is but one example of the manner in which local as well as foreign matters are held in the iron grasp of the pettiest minority which ever ruled a nation. It may be asked why, now that the queen has abdicated, is not this changed by an appeal to the suffrages. Simply because these men guard against such a possibility. There can be no more voters registered for three years from the date of the registry of the autumn of 1894. By 1897, the powers that be hope to become by foreign protectorate or domestic force permanently entrenched against fear of overthrow.

How far the rumors of interference by Japan as the tool of Great Britain are the result of the return of Minister Thurston can be as well estimated in New York as in Honolulu. It must be remembered that British interference or even influence is the whip by which Hawaii proposes to scourge the United States until the latter promises to accede to any demands of the little oligarchy. The strained relations

consequent on the Thurston incident are thought by many to be a favorable moment for an attempt at a query with the court of St. James. The fact, however, that Great Britain, France and Japan, since Hawaii advertised the republic, reduced diplomatic representatives from the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary to that of commissioner ranking as consul-general does not look as though much consideration could in any way be expected from the great powers. In both government and diplomatic circles general ignorance of the causes of the recall of Minister Thurston is assumed in communicating alike with friend or foe, but the news created the greatest excitement. There are those who believe that the select few in power have known all about it for the past month, and that this was the cause of the enactment and re-enactment of these rigorous laws of which a condensation was published in the columns of the Post. To return to martial law would be to risk further rupture of diplomatic relations, and give the great powers renewed excuse for terminating the same. But the world may be possibly kept in ignorance of the fact that all which has been done by the military in restriction of personal liberty can be done at any moment by the government without advertising its despotism to its sister nations.

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